

gift of \$100 from their own personal bank accounts to every American citizen, the Democrats would claim this was a "mean-spirited cut" and an attempt to steal from children and the elderly. Unfortunately, the media would support them since you rarely see reporters make a Democrat back up what he says.

I am not wealthy or influential, and the only people I see, "dipping into my pockets" are the Democrats. The only chance I see for the future of America is from the Republicans. If the only arguments against the Contract With America consist of fear mongering and lies, what are the real motivations of the Democrats? And just what do they propose to ensure a prosperous future for us all? I would really like to know.

DON'T CUT FINANCIAL AID TO STUDENTS

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, recently I received a letter from a young woman in my district. She brought up some very good reasons why Republicans should not cut Federal funding for student financial assistance.

She said: "College is the best investment in America's future." I agree. That only way to insure that America prospers tomorrow is to make education and training available to our Nation's children and young adults today. These ill-considered Republican budget cuts are a short-sighted move that will limit America's future.

While graduates may earn more over their lifetime than nongraduates, they do so because they master specialized skills and knowledge demanded in our complex and dynamic economy. While graduates may earn more money than non-graduates, they don't have money to pay tuition and other expenses this year, before they enter or complete college. The small amount of Federal financial aid provided through interest subsidies and grants are essential to allow many students to attend colleges and universities.

In the words of the same young woman: "The opportunity to go to college is a privilege that should be everyone's right. Every student with the ability and the determination to work for a college education should have that opportunity. But suggested cuts in student aid programs would make financing a college education more difficult for average Americans."

She is right. Not only would the cuts mean that post-secondary education would be more difficult to obtain for so-called average or middle-class Americans. These cuts would also make it virtually impossible for less privileged Americans to gain access to a post-secondary education.

While we must balance the budget, it is penny-wise and pound foolish to skimp on one of the most important investments we can make—the education of young people or the continuing education of adults.

This young women from my district and her peers are tomorrow's work force. We must give them the tools they will need—and we all will need—to compete and succeed in the global marketplace of the 21st century.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the letter be inserted in the RECORD.

Hon. EDWARD MARKEY,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: College is the best investment in America's future, I urge you to support continued funding for college loan and student aid programs.

A college education means increased opportunity—opportunity to advance in a career, to earn more, and to contribute more to the economy and to society.

The opportunity to go to college is a privilege that should be everyone's rights. Every student with the ability and the determination to work for a college education should have that opportunity. But suggested cuts in student aid programs would make financing a college education more difficult for average Americans.

Please don't cut our future short. Don't cut student aid.

Sincerely,

ERICA MARTIN-DOYLE.

TRIBUTE TO FIVE MINNESOTA IMMIGRANTS

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, in light of the antiimmigrant sentiment currently prevalent in much of U.S. society, I wanted to submit the following article which appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press newspaper in my district in St. Paul, MN. This article tells a different story from those often heard about immigrants. Immigrants to the United States, like the five people being honored in Minnesota, work hard to make important contributions to our society.

As we consider changes to immigration law in Congress, I hope that we will keep in mind that these five people are a true representation of what immigration means to the United States.

FIVE MINNESOTA IMMIGRANTS HONORED FOR ACHIEVEMENT—RIGHTS GROUP AWARD IS FOR CONTRIBUTION

(By Ann Baker)

The last time Rocky Ralebipi went home to Pietersburg, South Africa, it was 1992, two years after Nelson Mandela walked out of prison.

Seeing tank-like army vehicles called "hippos" patrolling her family's segregated black neighborhood, she couldn't shake off the memory of a 1977 police raid on the university where she was a student. Classmates suspected of conspiring against the apartheid government were beaten to death and flung out of 10th-story windows.

It's a memory the College of St. Catherine librarian will never forget.

Tonight, Ralebipi and four other immigrants who live in the state will be honored at the Minneapolis Hilton by Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights for their outstanding contributions to Minnesota's economy and community life.

Nazie Eftekhari, Jose Lamas, George Meredith and Viet Ngo, who with Ralebipi are immigrants from four different continents, teach, invent, create and manage businesses and operate communication networks. All but Meredith came to Minnesota as students.

"These individuals are not unique," said Nancy Arnison, deputy director of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. "They represent what immigrants bring to this country."

Arnison points to local surveys showing that Minnesotans tend to believe immigrants

brought more harm than good, even before California's Proposition 187 barred undocumented immigrants' families from free school and vaccinations.

In the meantime, anti-immigrant sentiment is on the rise nationally, with welfare reform bills in the U.S. House and Senate proposing to deny numerous federal services to legal immigrants who are waiting to become naturalized.

Eftekhari, who is from Iran, founded and directs one of the first managed-care health corporations in the United States, called the Araz Group. Recipient of the 1995 Bloomington Small Business Person of the Year award, she has 115 employees.

"It's the strength of this country that people can come here and accomplish their dreams," she says.

Lamas left Mexico for California by himself six years ago at age 14, supporting himself with restaurant jobs. He graduated from Worthington Senior High School on Monday, and has published three editions of a six-page Spanish language newspaper, supported by advertisements, for the Worthington area.

In the fall he plans to enroll at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter to study pre-law. He also likes to tinker with inventions, especially auto safety devices. He has legal immigration papers now and hopes to become a citizen in three years.

Meredith, a 28-year veteran of 3M, came here on a job transfer from South Wales eight years ago. He is an executive vice president in charge of the company's life sciences division, which produces medical, pharmaceutical and dental products.

Now a U.S. citizen, Meredith lives in Grant township, which he calls "a satisfying place to live from a community standpoint." He enjoys the outdoors, fishing, skiing and sailing on the St. Croix.

Ngo, an engineer and sculptor who came from Vietnam in 1970, founded and operates a sewage treatment company, Lemna Corp. of Mendota Heights. He creates parks out of ponds with floating duckweed, packed into wire mesh to cleanse the effluent. His method is praised as cheap, natural and esthetic.

"And I'm as American as chow mein," he says.

"We're trying to dispel the myths that immigrants are flooding our shores, taking American jobs, draining the welfare system and failing to assimilate," said Arnison.

In fact, she said, immigrants, who have been entering at the "hardly a flood" rate of 1 million a year, make up 8 percent of the population, compared with 15 percent in the early 1900s. Together, they earn \$240 billion a year and pay back \$90 billion in taxes. Only 9 percent of immigrant households are on welfare.

Next week, Ralebipi, who now directs the College of St. Catherine's health sciences library, will return to South Africa, this time to teach library technology for a year to students at her alma mater, the University of the North.

This time she is excited, not scared. She is confident that in South Africa freedom has become "really real" and she is eager to help build the newly integrated society.

CONTRACT FROM AMERICANS

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, last week my constituents sent me a Contract from Americans. The first line of this contract says